Don Swanger

"I went to school in Lewisburg, PA and moved to Brockport in 1950 at age 23 to be closer to my brothers. **Wilson Northrup**, who lived on Sweden Walker Road, offered me a job, a house, free beef, pork, and vegetables from the farm. After working for six year for Mr. Northrup, I took a construction job for **Webster (Web) Chapman** and also worked nights at Rochester Products.



Fig.1. Don Swanger at home. 2012

In the 1950s, I was employed by Brockport Central School. While I was working at the school, I received $90 a month GI Bill and attended night school at Monroe Community College. With that money, I purchased my first brand new car. Eventually, I became the garage foreman and assistant transportation director at Brockport Central School until I retired in 1985.

Because of my interest in hunting, I've taught hunter safety courses for 32 years and I'm still an avid hunter.

My wife was a cosmetician at local drug stores for thirty years.

Our home at 5329 Lake Road, Brockport was once owned by Mr. Chapman. When my wife and I heard he was going to sell the house, we quickly made an offer. We moved into our home in 1969. At that time, the upstairs was unfinished, and the front of the home was divided into a living room, bathroom and bedroom. We finished off the upstairs, and now the current living room extends across the entire front.

The back room of the house was added by Mr. Chapman. Over the years, there have been a few other changes to the original home. Behind the garage, Mr. Chapman constructed a large greenhouse in which he grew orchids. The winter storm of 1966 collapsed a big portion, but I salvaged a 26' by 12' section.



Fig.2. The Swanger home on Lake Road in Sweden Center. 2012

At one time, my garage was a slaughter house and a voting location. I remember when I moved to Brockport in 1950, that garage was the first place I voted.

I've witnessed many changes to the town of Sweden since I moved here. In 1950, farm land extended along Fourth Section Road from Sweden Walker Road to Route 19. Now all that farmland has changed to commercial enterprises and extends west past Route 19. There have also been some changes on Lake Road. At one time, there was a house and gas station on the empty lot south of my home. It was torn down in the 1970s. A few doors south of my home, there was a church at the site of a current small apartment house. Until the last few years, there weren't many children living near me. Now, some of the neighbors have toddlers.

Many of my nieces and nephews attended the Sweden Center school #2. It closed around 1951 or 52. I'm proud of the picture I have of the class of 1948, and I've identified all of the students. At one time, the building was sold to the VFW. A few years later, the VFW merged with the American Legion on West Avenue and the school was again sold.

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